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**From:** Grantham, Nancy  
**Sent:** Thur 9/17/2015 8:13:56 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Post-Gold King Mine Conceptual monitoring plan  
Post-GKM draft conceptual monitoring plan Clean 2015\_09\_17.pdf  
Incident Command Transition Document 9\_17\_15 INTERIM FINAL.PDF

**From:** Garcia, Bert

**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 2:07 PM

**To:** melynda.may@state.co.us; chris@frontier.net; bgardner@silverton.co.us; bocc@sanjuancountycolorado.us; administrator@sanjuancountycolorado.us; joe.kerby@co.laplata.co.us; joanne.spina@co.laplata.co.us; RON.LEBLANC@DURANGOGOV.ORG; sherri.dugdale@durangogov.org; LJOLLON@SJBHD.ORG; director@sjcph.org; Patrick J. Pfaltzgraff (patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us); Walt Baker

**Cc:** Russo, Rebecca; Smith, Paula; Peterson, Cynthia; Grantham, Nancy; Hestmark, Martin; Spence, Sandra; Williams, Laura; Pierce, Maggie; Card, Joan; Wall, Tom; Loop, Travis; Tulis, Dana; Foster, Althea; Garcia, David; Gullatt, Kristin; EOC Public Information; Cheatham, Reggie; EOC\_Manager,; Evans, David; EOC Water; Calanog, Steve

**Subject:** Post-Gold King Mine Conceptual monitoring plan

I am writing to let you know that today the EPA is releasing two monitoring plans in follow-up to the Gold King Mine Release Incident.

Recognizing that water and sediment are now being maintained at pre-existing conditions, the agency will be scaling down the Incident Command Post in Durango, CO, and transitioning to a long-term operational plan that can be supported by the agency's Regional Offices.

The *Interim Final Incident Command Transition Plan* describes the reduction in frequency for surface water and sediment sampling and the organizational transition from incident management to project management while a longer-term watershed monitoring plan is being implemented. This plan is provided for your information.

The second plan titled *Post-Gold King Release Incident: Conceptual Monitoring Plan for Surface Water, Sediments, and Biology* describes the longer-term post-release surface water quality, sediment quality, and biological monitoring that will occur over the course of the year following the August 5, 2015 Gold King Mine (GKM) Release Incident. While the latest monitoring information shows contaminant levels have returned to pre-spill levels, the study's monitoring information will serve to inform if these findings remain consistent across annual flow conditions. EPA anticipates beginning implementation of the longer-term monitoring activities in October 2015.

Attached with this email are both the *Post-Gold King Release Incident: Conceptual Monitoring Plan for Surface Water, Sediments, and Biology* and the *Interim Final Incident Command Transition Plan*. The EPA invites you to attend a call among tribes, states and local stakeholders to discuss the plans and ask questions on Tuesday, September 22 at 12:00 Mountain Time. We will provide you with an agenda and call-in information for that discussion in the very near future.

We would appreciate your written comments on the *Post-Gold King Release Incident: Conceptual Monitoring Plan for Surface Water, Sediments, and Biology* as soon as possible so the Agency can initiate monitoring this fall before the cold weather limits sampling activities, but no later than October 8, 2015. At the end of the comment period, EPA will provide written feedback on how input was considered in the final action. We look forward to your input; so, please provide your written comments for consideration to [GKMmonitoring@epa.gov](mailto:GKMmonitoring@epa.gov).

Thank you,

Bert Garcia

Director, Ecosystems Protection Program

EPA Region 8